

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-18, 33-35, 37-41 and 43-55 are pending in this application, of which, claims 7-14, 33, 43-50 and 55 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 7-14, 33, 43-50 and 55 should be rejoined and allowed when their base claims are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 42 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely cancel claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The §112, Second Paragraph Rejection is Moot

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 42 are cancelled, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

The Office Action: (1) rejects claims 1, 4, 6, 15-18, 34, 35, 37-40, 42 and 51-54 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053344 to Harutyunyan et al. (Harutyunyan) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-313017 to Sugimoto et al. (Sugimoto); (2) rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 34, 37, 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,702,532 to Wen et al. (Wen) in view of Sugimoto; and (3) rejects claims 15-18, 35, 38, 39 and 51-54 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wen and Sugimoto, and further in view of Harutyunyan. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

A verified English-language translation of Applicants' Japanese priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-329875, filed September 22, 2003, is attached hereto, which supports the current claims of this U.S. application. Thus, foreign priority of this

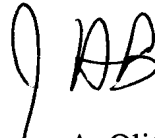
application is perfected to September 22, 2003. Because Sugimoto's publication date is November 6, 2003, after the perfected foreign priority date of this application, Sugimoto does not qualify as a reference against this application. Accordingly, withdrawal of all rejections is requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Verified English-Language Translation of Japanese
Patent Application No. 2003-329875

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